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For Your Files: 1995 Antelope Lake Creel Census

In 1995, the California Department of Water Resources, Northern District conducted an angler survey on Antelope Lake, Plumas County. These surveys were conducted on 30 days throughout the 201 days of the 1995 general California Sierra District Trout Fishing (stream) season. Interviews were conducted at irregular and intermittent times; as convenient between regularly-scheduled recreation use counts and creel census on nearby Indian Creek. Anglers were interviewed to determine whether they fished from boat or shore, number in fishing party, hours fished, terminal gear, visitor origin, and the species, number and size of fish caught (if any).

During the 30 randomly selected survey dates, the Department of Water Resources interviewed 248 anglers who had fished 481.5 hours, with an average length of stay 2.1 hours for completed efforts. Those anglers interviewed possessed a total catch of 72 rainbow trout, 11 brook trout, 11 largemouth bass, and 3 brown bullheads. In addition, 2 rainbow trout, 6 brown bullheads, 7 largemouth bass, 2 bluegill and 1 redear sunfish were reported caught and released.

The average fork length of rainbow trout caught by an anglers during 1995 was 39.6 cm (15.6 in) among fish measuring 34.0 cm to 44.0 cm (13.4 in to 17.3 in). Rainbow trout catch rate was 0.15 fish/hour; total trout catch rate was 0.17 fish/hour. The average length of Eastern brook trout caught was 35.4 cm (13.9 in).

Although we only observed 11 largemouth bass creeled throughout the 1995 fishing season (average length 30.7 cm (12.1 in) fork length, range 27 cm to 33 cm [10.6 in to 13.0 in]), a DWR fishery study on Antelope Lake in 1995, noted that the largemouth bass population in Antelope Lake appears to be substantially larger than the trout populations. This is significant because the majority of anglers were primarily seeking trout species.

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Of all anglers censused, shore anglers were represented by 139 anglers who had reportedly fished 214.5 hours. Shore anglers accounted for 17 rainbow trout, 6 Eastern brook trout, 4 largemouth bass and 3 brown bullheads. The average fork length of rainbow trout caught by shore anglers during the 1995 trout season was 40.0 cm (15.7 in) with a catch rate of 0.08 fish/hour.

Boat anglers were represented by 109 anglers who had reportedly fished 267 hours. Boat anglers accounted for 55 rainbow trout, 7 largemouth bass, and 5 Eastern brook trout. The average fork length of rainbow trout caught by boat anglers during the 1995 trout season was 39.6 cm (15.6 in) with a catch rate of 0.21 fish/hour. Boat anglers also reported 6 brown bullheads and 2 rainbow trout caught and released. We calculated that there was an average of 2.22 anglers per boat.

Approximately 59 percent of the anglers interviewed fished with bait, 19 percent with lures, 19 percent with a combination of bait and lures, and 3 percent with a combination of flies and lures.

Antelope Lake shore angler origin (Figure 1) was predominantly from the northeastern counties (41 percent), followed by Sacramento Valley counties (21 percent), and San Francisco Bay counties (18 percent). Boater origin on Antelope Lake was similar in proportion to the above, predominantly from northeastern counties (40 percent), Sacramento Valley Counties (21 percent), and San Francisco Bay counties (19 percent).

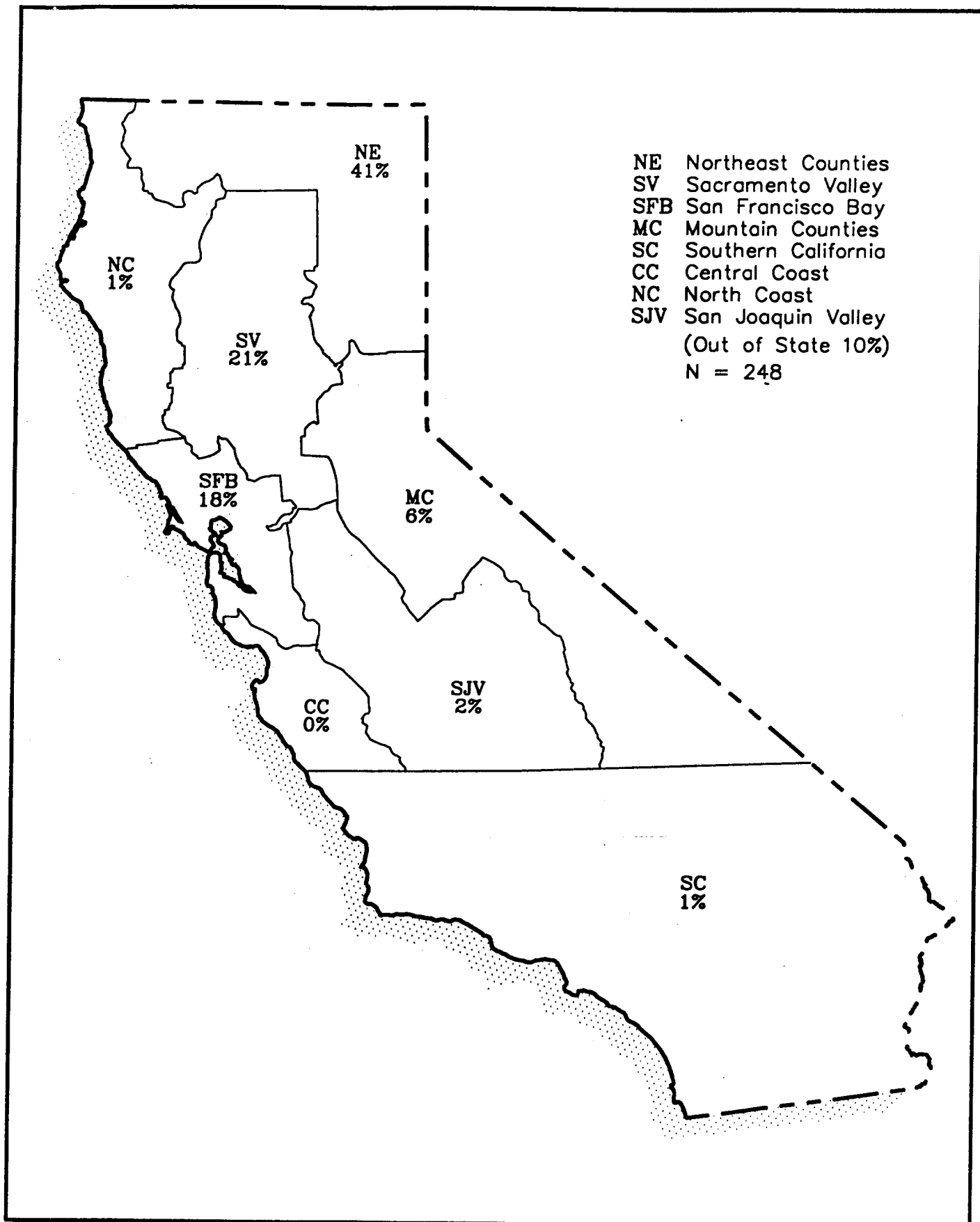
It is worth noting that, although creeled trout were relatively large (Figure 2), the shore angler success rate was the lowest we've been aware of locally. In the coming months I hope to provide you a copy of an Antelope Reservoir study which reviews the status of the fishery more thoroughly. Until then, if you would like to discuss this or any other related DWR data collection effort, please call me at (916) 529-7357.

~~Original signed by~~

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**Figure 1 - Antelope Lake Angler Origin by County Groups
1995**

FIGURE 2. CREELED RAINBOW TROUT

Antelope Lake 1995

